From:	Engbring Gretchen
To:	GLUKHOVSKIKH Oksana
Subject:	Fwd: Please support SB 819 to equalize funding for public charter schools!
Date:	Tuesday, April 07, 2015 6:48:44 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Holly McGuire <holly@mcguirebarber.com>
Date: April 6, 2015 at 10:21:27 PM PDT
To: <Gretchen.engbring@state.or.us>
Subject: Fwd: Please support SB 819 to equalize funding for public charter schools!

I am a parent at Emerson and am forwarding this to you at Tara O'Neill's request. I sent this to all the members of the committee as well.

Regards,

Holly

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Holly McGuire** <holly@mcguirebarber.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015
Subject: Please support SB 819 to equalize funding for public charter schools!
To: Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us

Senator Dembrow,

I am writing to ask that you support passage of Senate Bill 819, which will correct the highly inequitable funding charter schools currently receive in Oregon.

A 2015 study, conducted by Econorthwest for the Chalkboard project, showed that public charters received 42% less funding than district-run schools. People often say that it is 20% less or even only 5% less, but these figures do not take into account ALL public funds that districts receive for each child. As PPS's own recent decisions around equity concluded, the money that each child carries with them makes a huge difference to the education they and all their classmates receive. There is no reason that students attending approved charters should not have that same advantage.

This bill requires no new funding. It just mandates that the schools teaching the children get the funds for those children. From my perspective it means that the squabbles that administrators, teachers,

and politicians are having over whether charters are ok or not will stop being acted out on the educations of the children themselves. If charters are approved and legal, then fund them. Note also that this shift of funds equals less than 1% of the STATEWIDE K-12 budget.

My daughter attends The Emerson School. It is a terrific school, and the teachers there are clearly in it for the kids. Based on the tangibles like test scores, and the intangibles like the impressive interpersonal skills, insightful questions, and desire to understand and drink in the world around them that the kids I have come to know demonstrate, their efforts are clearly paying off--for the kids. But I do not think that it is sustainable for anyone to have to demonstrate their commitment by being underpaid and stressed by too few resources.

Supporting this bill is a feel good proposition. No one will be hurt by it and a lot of terrific kids will benefit.

I also hope you will support SB 820, which will allow charters to give extra "weight" to students in the public lottery, based on poverty, language, and race. I am in the enviable position, by dint of my own race and educational background, to have the skills to search out and learn the ropes of a complex system of access and information. This allowed me to find a school for my mixed-race daughter that has both terrific educational programming AND a diverse student body, which The Emerson School has achieved with a great deal of outreach effort to increase the presence of kids of color and low-income families in the pool. Our local school is Alameda, which for all that it apparently offers, given its immense popularity, does not offer diversity. Obviously this bill cannot provide everyone with equal access to understanding and navigating the system. But it can give a little extra help getting in, once underserved populations manage to find the door.

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,

Holly McGuire
2775 NE Wiberg Ln
Portland, OR 97213

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Sent with Postbox

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Holly McGuire
503/320-3876